ecosystem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Non-forestry works were reported to have been carried out in Senchel Wildlife Sanctuary by Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council in alleged Violation of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) State Government has been requested to ensure immediate stopping of all works allegedly being carried out in violation of the Act.

Reserve Forest Canal in Lonak Valley Sikkim

2723. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that 11000 acres of Reserve Forest Land in Lonak Valley at Mungothang in Sikkim-Tibbet Border in North-Sikkim has been illegally and mischeveously recorded as private holdings in 1990-91 as per survey conducted by the Government of Sikkim despite the objections raised by the State Forest Department while the Sikkim Forest Toposheet map is approved by the Surveyor General of India and also by both Government of India and as well as Government of Sikkim;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that as per 1952, 1976-78, 1981 Survey map records the land in question is a Reserved forest land;

(c) what steps or precautionary measures are being taken by Government to curb such malpractices of false maps/ survey records being prepared and transfer the forest land to private persons; and

(d) what steps Government have contemplated in the above said matter in North Sikkim?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Wild-life-cum-bird sanctuary at Asola, Delhi

2724. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that wild-life-cum-bird sanctuary has been coming up at Asola in the Mehrauli area, Delhi;

(b) if so what are the details of the said project; the money spent so far on this project;

(c) whether Government's attention has been drawn into a news item with photographs on this project which appeared in The Statesman of 25.11.1993; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A decision to set up a wildlife Sanctuary in the southern ridge of Delhi was taken in 1986. So far an area of 6873 acres has been notified under Section 18 of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972. Since 1986, an amount of Rs. 482.76 lakhs has been spend for the development works of the Sanctuary. Out of this a boundary wall of 45 km. length, 2 tube wells with pump houses, 3 chowkidar huts and a few check dams, water storage tanks and shallow ponds have been constructed, besides an administrative block which is under construction.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) It is reported by the Deputy Conservator of Forests of the Government of National Capital

Territory of Delhi that most of the shortcomings pointed out in the newspapers are the result of breaches in the boundary wall. The Sanctuary area was earlier Gaon Sabha land and was put to unrestricted use. The Construction of the wall around the land has resulted in curtailment of these privileges, which has led to breaches in the wall. Considering the adverse edaphic factors, the survival percentage of the plantations is however considered satisfactory. The shortcoming pointed out are being attended to.

Dumping of Untreated Industrial effluents into Rivers

2725. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that industries in and around Kanpur, Ghaziabad, Meerut Saharanpur and Agra continue to dump untreated effluents into rivers despite injunctions to the country;

(b) whether such practice have resulted in dangerously polluting the rivers and other water sources; and

(c) if so, what steps Government have taken or intend to take to effective prevent the dumping of untreated industrial effluents into rivers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government has received information that some industries in the distillery and sugar sectors located in and around Kanpur, Ghaziabad, Meerut, Saharanpur and Agra have not set up satisfactory effluent treatment facilities.

(b) The river pollution is mainly caused by the untreated sewage. However, industrial effluents also deteriorate the river water quality. Three polluted river stretches have been identified in the Ganga basin in Uttar Pradesh.

(c) Steps taken by the Government to prevent the dumping of untreated industrial effluents into rivers include:

(i) Industries have been asked to comply with consent requirements of the U.P. Polution Control Board to keep the discharge of effluent within the stipulated limits;

(ii) A scheme has been initiated to give assistance to clusters of small scale industrial units for setting up Common Effluent Treatment Plants;

(iii) A time bound action plan for control of pollution in highly polluting 17 categories of industries has been prepared in consultation with State Governments;

(iv) Government had launched the Ganga Action Plan in 1985 and the Yamuna Action Plan in 1993 to clean the polluted stretches of the rivers Ganga & Yamuna.

Smuggling of Animal Skin and Bones

2726. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a large quantity of tiger skin, bones of tigers/leopard and other endangered animals is smuggled to foreign countries;

(b) whether Government have made any enquiry to ascertain the source of collection of these goods if so, what is the outcome thereof;

(c) whether any official of the forest department is also involved therein; and

(d) what steps are proposed to be taken to ensure the protection of wild animals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) The Government have received reports about the attempts to smuggle wildlife products out of the country.

(b) In recent seizure of wildlife products in Delhi on 30.8.93, two persons have been arrested and a complaint has been filed in the Court of Law.

(c) The Government have not received any information regarding involvement of